

Message Text

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14

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ADP-00 ACDA-19 GAC-01 MBFR-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 MC-02 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /126 W
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R 221832 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 367

INFO AMEMBASSY FORT LAMY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 14231

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LY, CD, FR

SUBJ: LIBYAN AIR BASE IN CHAD

1. MAY 19 ISSUE OF JEUNE AFRIQUE REPORTS THAT KADHAFI HAS ASKED PRESIDENT TOMBALBYE TO LET LIBYA BASE SOME OF FRENCH-SUPPLIED MIRAGES IN NORTHERN PART OF CHAD. REPORTEDLY TOMBALBYE HAS NOT YET REPLIED.
2. JEUNE AFRIQUE EDITOR PERNETEL TOLD EMBOFF THAT REPORT WAS ABSOLUTELY CORRECT AND HAD BEEN GIVEN DIRECTLY TO JEUNE AFRIQUE BY MEMBER OF CHADIAN CABINET. BERNETEL SPECULATED THAT FRENCH WOULD HAVE TO GIVE CONSENT TO ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF RESTRAINTS ON TRANSFER OF LIBYAN MIRAGES, BUT ALSO BECAUSE OF FRENCO- CHADIAN DEFENSE TREATY.
3. QUAI DEPUTY DIRECTOR NORTH AFRICAN AFFAIRS DE WARREN SAID GOF HAD NO CONFIRMATION OF REPORTED REQUEST BUT DID NOT FIND IT IMPROBABLE. EARLIER THIS SPRING, HE SAID, KHADHAFI HAD BEEN " PANICKED" AT POSSIBILITY OF ISRAELI ATTACK AND HAD TAKEN MEASURES TO DISPERSE HIS AIRCRAFT. IT NOT, THEREFORE, IMPOSSIBLE THAT HE HAD APPROACHED TOMBALBYE ON THIS SUBJECT.
4. COMMENT: BERNETEL'S COMMENTS NOTWITHSTANDING, WE
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REMAIN SKEPTICAL THAT LIBYA WOULD WISH TO BASE ITS MIRAGES
IN CHAD GIVEN PROBLEMS OF CREATING NECESSARY GROUND
INSTALLATIONS AND GENERAL ISOLATION OF NORTHERN CHAD.
IRWIN

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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